

# WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



*Together Again*

INTERNATIONAL  
**WOMEN'S DAY**

**Tuesday March 8th**



## Margaret's Message, Submitted by President, Margaret Byl

I would like to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Thank you to all who participated in our WI Day event of February 19<sup>th</sup>. WI Day and WI Week were celebrated across our Nation, with proclamations and ceremonies in branches and houses of government from coast to coast to coast in celebration of 125 years of Women's Institutes.

As we leave February behind us, we move into March with its promise of warmer weather. For those provinces that change their clocks, Daylight Savings Time begins on the 13<sup>th</sup> and we usher in spring on March 20.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> in acknowledgement of International Women's Day and in continuation of our 125 year anniversary of Women's Institutes celebrations, we are pleased to host a Round Table on Food Security and Food Waste. Special attention to the UN Sustainable Goal 12 will be given. I am pleased to announce that Ms. Carla St. Croix, Executive Director, Strategic Integration and Competitiveness Policy Directorate from the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be taking part in the discussions.

It is also the month that we annually celebrate International Women's Day. According to Wikipedia "**International Women's Day (IWD)** is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. "

"The **United Nations (UN)** is an intergovernmental organization aiming to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations."

Weighing heavily on my heart is the senseless War being raged in the Ukraine. On this March 8, 2022, International Women's Day, let us remember the courage of the women of Ukraine who are standing strong in defence of their country and their democratic rights as a free and sovereign nation. The grief of women who have lost their husband, child, parent, sister, or brother knows no borders. Our thoughts and prayers are with the mother's who are now refugees in the surrounding countries and for the men and the women of those nations who have welcomed them with open arms we are most grateful. Also remembering the men and women who have been arrested in Russia for speaking out in opposition to this horrific war. Let us pray for world peace and let us not forget to be kind.



As Affiliate Members of the Associated Country Women of the World, I am pleased to provide information from Marie Kenny, UN Committee Chair. At the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, hosted by the Associated Country Women of the World, held on March 16, 2022, will be a Parallel Event at 12:00 EDT on Indigenous



Ingenuity: Learning Lessons for Rural Climate Reality and at 18:00 PM EDT ACWW will host a Parallel Event called Indigenous Rural Women, Business, and Meaningful Economic Empowerment. On March 18 at 08:00 AM EDT they will be hosting a Parallel Event called Media and Information Literacy, Empowerment, and Advocacy for Rural Women and Girls and at 18:00 PM EDT – Rural Economic Empowerment & Financial Independence Post Covid-19. For more information and to register please use:

[www.acww.org.uk/csw66.html](http://www.acww.org.uk/csw66.html)



### *Dates to Remember*

- March 2 – Leadership Module 3
- March 7 – Round Table – Food Security
- March 8 – International Women’s Day
- March 14 – FWIC Board Meeting
- March 16 – ACWW Events – 66<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women
- March 18 – ACWW- Parallel Events at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women
- March 30- Leadership Module 4 Conflict Resolution
- April 20 – Round Table – Climate Change
- April 22 – Earth Day

Do you know a Canadian WI Entrepreneur that you would like to recognize? Drop us a line at [info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca)

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award and The Erland Lee Award Nominations close on March 31 Visit [www.fwic.ca](http://www.fwic.ca) for more information





*Monday, March 7th, 2022*

**Topic: Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Roundtable on Food Security**

**Time: Mar 7, 2022 07:00 PM Montreal**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86381849441?pwd=VktKTVU4SjBtOEFJSjA2V0Vxc3IHQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 8184 9441

Passcode: 673853



## *Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead* submitted by Margaret Byl, President FWIC

Emily Hodgson and Roxana Maturana have been working at the Homestead courtesy of a Young Canada Works Grant from the Canadian Heritage Department of the Government of Canada. They will be leaving us on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the end of their contract. Roxana will be returning to school to complete her Master's degree and Emily will be returning to her previous employment. They have done an amazing job and have helped to bring the Homestead back to life during a very trying time. We wish them good luck as they venture forward with their careers. Please see below for their February Report. Moving forward and thanks to a re-opening Grant from the Government of Canada, we will be hiring a Museum Manager in the near future.

### February Report from Emily Hodgson & Roxana Maturana

This month we have continued to work on organising the museum's collection of artefacts and documentation as well as tackling ways to improve visibility of the Homestead online and more engaging to audiences.

This month Emily finished redesigning the Homestead's website. It is now more accessible and engaging to the public. The website now includes visit planning, the virtual museum, past and present exhibits, the history and legacy of Adelaide and the Homestead, events and rentals, educational programs, about the FWIC and Homestead and volunteer opportunities and membership programs. Check it out at [www.adelaidehoodless.com](http://www.adelaidehoodless.com).

We also created three new birthday party packages. These packages are designed for ages 6-12 and families can choose from three party themes. The available themes are; Mystery at the Willows, Addie's Arty Party, or Addie's Tea Party. The brochure is available on the Homestead website.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the WI we installed a new exhibit in the Dining Room entitled "Adelaide Wasn't Alone: The Struggles of a Victorian Mother". The exhibit looks at the social climate and way of life in rural Canada at the end of the nineteenth century. To accompany the exhibit, we also created a curatorial tour that is available on the Homestead website. We also created a curatorial tour of the FWIC exhibit.

Roxana has continued to work on adding artefacts to Past Perfect and reorganising the Collections Room to make the collection in storage more easily accessible. She also created binders to better organise museum related materials for future employees to pick up where we left off.

We also began to plan the 8th annual Easter at Addie's event. This in person event is to be held on Good Friday, April 15th, 2022. We are planning to have crafts, games, egg hunts, an easter bunny, and vendors. We are trying to find an



affordable petting zoo and food vendors. So far, we have Brant Waterways participating in the event and are waiting to hear back from other local organisations.

## Ellen's Corner

*Ellen McLean has been an active WI member for close to seventy years. Over that time, she has served in many roles including President of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and President of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Testimony to her excellent leadership and service, Ellen has received a honorary doctorate degree from St. Francis Xavier University, been inducted to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, received the Order of Canada as well as being the first recipient of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year.*



What I am about to write is not what I had intended for my corner for the month of March. During the past three weeks I have listened to the radio and watched TV News a lot. You might say too much. (But I did progress well with the baby blanket I am knitting for my second great grandchild due in April!)

I have always enjoyed watching the Olympic games. I am so impressed by the skills of the athletes, the result of years of training, hard work, determination, dedication and commitment to the sport they love. I can feel their disappointment at not reaching their goal of a medal, even though they might just have missed it by a fraction of a second. And I can celebrate with the winners and join with them in their joy and excitement at having won and they stand proudly on the podium with a shiny medal, the Canadian flag going up behind them, and if is gold hearing our National anthem. They are so proud of being Canadian, of having represented us in the world. A proud moment for us all.

That was two weeks, and during that time as well as the week before I tuned to a News channel and saw hundreds of protesters on the streets of Ottawa, as well as large numbers at some of our border crossings. . I accept that protesting is our democratic right, but I would be less than honest if I didn't write that I was saddened and concerned. The misinformation, the anger, the racism, the threats against the media was disturbing. As was the threat of over throwing the Government, of ousting the Prime Minister. To hear some say they would fight in a Civil War if that happens, and to hear anarchists, extremists, white supremacists mentioned was chilling. To see the Canadian flag being carried upside down, and to listen to horns honking and yells of "Freedom" were disturbing. Over and over I said to myself "Is this my Canada?" Things are quieter to-day, but we all know that many of those who occupied our Capital city are still out there somewhere. Their ideology hasn't changed.

During that time I listened one morning to an interview with Jane Goodall, the renowned environmentalist. She is noted for her years of research in the chimpanzees of Tanzania. She decades ago raised the alarm as to what the destruction of their habitat was doing to them. It was the first alarm she raised in the harm we as people were doing to our planet. When I heard her the other day, she spoke of her ongoing concern that there are still far too many who fail to accept what is happening to our planet. Then she said that it is as though she is looking through a dark tunnel, but there is a red star at the end of the tunnel. That red star is hope, and that is what keeps her



continue her work (She is in her eighties and can hardly wait for restrictions to be eased so she can return to Tanzania and her beloved chimpanzees!)

And so, you and I must constantly remember that red star of hope at the end of the tunnel when the challenges ahead seem insurmountable.

## FWIC Projects Celebrate 125 Years of Women's Institutes



The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada- WI Canada want to celebrate 125 years of Women's Institutes with your help. The first Project is to encourage the provinces to collectively register 125 new members. We would like to help the provinces celebrate the new members by printing their names, with their permission in



*WI Connections*. Please send the names of the new members to [info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca). Let's see how quickly we can reach the 125 new members!

The second Project is to have 125 trees planted across Canada. The trees may be coniferous, deciduous, or fruit trees. The benefits of planting trees are twofold. Planting trees helps the environment, and the second reason provides a visual reminder of 125 years of Women's Institutes. Spring is coming and a great time to plant a tree. Make sure you take a photo of the tree planting and send it in to *WI Connections* sharing the type of tree, who planted it and where was it planted. Who will be the first to plant?



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## The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award

### Nominations Now Open

Nominees do not have to be members of a Women's Institute. **This Award** seeks to acknowledge **dedicated women** whose contributions make their communities and our world a better place to live. **Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award** recognizes the hard work, dedication, and support that these women have offered and continue to offer as they give leadership, inspire others, and make a difference while exhibiting the qualities of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, the founder of the Women's Institute movement. Nominations will close at midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup>,



2021. Go to <https://www.fwic.ca/canadian-woman-of-the-year-nomination>

## Correction

## Notice

In the February 2022 issue of WI Connections, we should have printed that the story and photos, including these interior photos were submitted by Ann Munro in the Garden of Eden Community Hall story.





## Prince Edward Island WI submitted by Ellen MacPhail

In an unsettled country, the steadfast and over century old organization of WI is turning to celebrations. The PEIWI Board promotes special themes this month including the province wide Taking Care of Women's Business, Period - 28 Day Campaign, WI Founder's Month, Canada's Agriculture Day and the Platinum Jubilee.

The annual "Taking Care of Women's Business. Period. 28-day campaign" is a month-long collection addressing the vital need for menstrual care products for P.E.I. food banks. The provincial WI board is challenging all Islanders to collect feminine hygiene products or make monetary donations.

To be a part of the 28 Day Campaign, simply purchase menstrual products and drop-off over the month of February to any Murphy's Pharmacies across P.E.I., Main Street Pharmasave in Souris, or the WI Office at 40 Enman Crescent, in Charlottetown. Online donations can also be made at: [URHM.org](http://URHM.org).

Each year, Islanders have graciously come together to collect period-based products to distribute to food banks across the Island. To date, over \$35,000 of product has resulted since 2015. When it may be difficult to see such items as a festive measure during a pandemic, this program can be measured by bringing much needed moments of reassurance to recipients, and joy to those donating.

February marks Founder's Month, celebrating the formation of Women's Institute by founder, Adelaide Hoodless. Since February 12, 1897, Adelaide's purpose was to "broaden the knowledge of domestic science and agriculture for women as well as socialize". On PEI the first branch began in 1911 and the original sentiment of Mrs. Hoodless is still the backbone of the approximate 70 branches currently on P.E.I. WI is a worldwide network of vibrant women with Canada noted as the founding country.

Founder's celebrations on P.E.I. are remodeled slightly from in-person to online sessions taking place February 17<sup>th</sup> and includes a contest to shape this year's theme of the Roadside Cleanup.

As February is Heart Month, Founder's Day festivities include a must see ZOOM presentation with Santina Beaton-MacEachern on heart health, as well as a session by the Great Wisdom Buddhist Institute (GWBI) Nuns as newcomers to PEI. Branches and members of the public are welcome to join in. Deadline to register is February 12 through the PEIWI website, or email at [wi@gov.pe.ca](mailto:wi@gov.pe.ca).

This year's Founder's Day Contest is a slogan/hashtag contest for the annual Roadside Cleanup. All are invited to submit slogans and hashtags to prevent littering on PEI to [wicontests@gmail.com](mailto:wicontests@gmail.com) by February 15. The winning slogan and hashtags will be featured in the 2022 Roadside Cleanup promotions.



The provincial Board also commemorates Canada Agriculture Day on February 22 through its annual youth cooking contest, Heard it Through the Grapevine segments, and Farm to Food table booklets for Grade 3. For over a year the Grapevine posters are spotlights on farming through the eyes of local WI members. WI is also pleased to also be a member of Farm and Food Care PEI and encourages Islanders to visit their webpage at <https://farmfoodcarepei.com/> to learn more on the agriculture industry on Prince Edward Island.

The final round of the WI Island Product Cooking Contest is taking place this month for those in grades 7-12. Finalists will be submitting short presentations using social platforms or presentation software to showcase Island ingredients, cooking process, and the results of their recipe.

PEIWI, members and staff extend best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on her Platinum Jubilee as Canada's longest reigning Sovereign and the first to celebrate a platinum jubilee. Queen Elizabeth II is the Honourary Patron of Women's Institute and is a member of WI in England.



## *Ontario's 125<sup>th</sup> Year Long Celebration* submitted by Linda Zelem, FWIO

Representative.

Our 125th Anniversary Celebration consists of 2 Province wide challenges.

The Quilt Challenge has anyone interested, receiving a package with all the pieces to complete one Quilt Block for \$15.00 plus tax and then submitting the finished product for judging and prizes. 20 blocks will be given to 5 Areas to complete the Quilt and will be shown at our Annual Plowing Match. From there, each Quilt will be sold and the profits will be shared.

Our other challenge is the Provincial Scavenger Hunt called WISH or W.I. Scavenger Hunt. Teams consist of 4 members with at least 1 being a non-member and no entry fee. We are hoping to generate many new members from this provincial hunt. Currently we have just under 80 teams registered. 6 Clues will be given throughout this year and Grand Prize is a stay for 4 at a B&B, a Vacation Rental, or Air B&B. Member participation and fun all around!

And the Grand Prize is worth \$1500.00 and we have 6 bonus prizes of \$100.00 (4 X \$25.00 Gift Cards) each drawn randomly before the next clue. The teams are numbered, and no team can win twice. For more information please contact Linda Zelem at FWIO.





## Leadership Module 4 - Conflict Resolution 1

To register...please contact [angela.scott@bellaliant.net](mailto:angela.scott@bellaliant.net)

If you have participated in the previous WI Leadership Modules, you will automatically be invited to this one.

- Conflict Resolution 1 – March 30, 2022
- Conflict Resolution 2 – April 27, 2022
- SMART goals and Goal Setting 1 – May 25, 2022
- SMART goals and Goal Setting 2 – September 7, 2022
- Communication & Public Relations for Non-Profits – October 5, 2022
- Leadership Identity – November 2, 2022



## *Let's Get Together* submitted by Sue Cushing

I was asked to write an article about book clubs so here goes!

The first book club I belonged to was when I was in grade 7 in Toronto. There were 5 of us who would get together on Saturday mornings to talk books and boys! It was a wonderful excuse to have fun with friends and avoid chores too. Our book club lasted throughout high school and into university and nursing. Unfortunately, life got in the way, but we are all still in touch on social media 60 years later!



**Why have a book club you might ask?** I googled the following....

### “The Benefits of Book Clubs

- Improve reading fluency. ...
- Broaden and deepen vocabulary bank. ...
- Improve comprehension of written words. ...
- Develop better writing skills. ...
- Improve oral verbiage skills. ...
- Development or improvement of research skills.”



All are good reasons to join a book club. For me, it is **the community**. Getting together and talking about common interests and interesting books and writers. Keeping up to date and having fun getting to know new people. Sharing life skills and interests and right now, sharing our concerns about our Covid lives and challenges. I would love to join women from across Canada at a monthly virtual book club meeting.

## *Cross Canada WI Book Club*

We are thrilled to announce that Elizabeth Young of Newfoundland and Labrador has agreed to lead the Book Club. Elizabeth is a retired teacher and avid reader, so watch for a special e-mail and Facebook notice of the first book. With luck the first Book Club meet will be held on a Saturday in April 2022.

*“A book is a dream you hold in your hands”*

Neil Gaiman



## Book Review for *The Spoon Stealer*, Submitted by Sue Cushing

I am so excited to recommend a wonderful book that our Sparks book club enjoyed reading called ...

**The Spoon Stealer by Lesley Crewe.** Lesley resides on Cape Breton Island and is known for her many historical fiction novels. If you visit her website [lesleycrewe.com](http://lesleycrewe.com) you can preview many of the amazing books she has written.

### **The Spoon Stealer** by Lesley Crewe

This historical novel takes place during the war years. Emmeline, our heroine, is “Born into a basket of clean sheets—ruining a perfectly good load of laundry” on a farm in Nova Scotia. Her mother disliked her daughter and made Emmeline’s life miserable. When her dear brother was wounded in the war, she fled across the Atlantic to nurse him and decided to build her life in England. The story of Emmeline’s life in England is so much fun to read about. There is conflict, humour, friendship and love. Emmeline lives in a small coastal town with her best friend, Vera, an excellent conversationalist. Vera is a small white dog who is hated by Emmeline’s neighbour. She joins a memoir-writing course at the library. Her classmates don't know what to make of her. Funny, loud, and with a riveting memoir, she charms them all. As her past unfolds for her audience, friendships form, a bonus in a rather lonely life. She even shares with them her third-biggest secret: she has liberated hundreds of spoons over her lifetime—from the local library, Cary Grant, Winston Churchill and other famous celebrities. She is a compulsive spoon stealer.

Emmeline unexpectedly inherits the farm where she grew up. She leaves her new friends to return to the farm in Canada and what remains of her family one last time. Her journey to reunite with her family and all the antics described kept me enthralled. Add a surprise ending to make this book a must read.

The Sparks Book Club is located in Ontario and is part of the Ontario Federated Women’s Institute, and Sue is an avid member. Thank-you Sue!

## *WI Canada FWIC*

359 Blue Lake Road, P.O. Box 209

St. George, ON, N0E 1N0

[info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca) 519.448.3873

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